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大学英语 阅读教程

DEVELOPING
READING
SKILLS 4

Linda Markstein

Louise Hirasawa

华中工学院英语教研室

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刘善芳 黎桂萍

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出版说明

本书系根据美国 Newbury House 公司出版的《提高阅读技巧》(Developing Reading Skills) 选编而成。原书是一套为帮助成年人掌握阅读技巧, 提高阅读能力的英语教材, 其内容和形式均有特色。文章题材广泛, 内容生动, 语言流畅, 知识性和趣味性兼蓄, 练习丰富, 形式活泼。

原书全套为五册, 现根据我国大学英语教学的实际情况和需要, 从中选出三十七篇文章, 分编成四册。大体上相当于1985年教育部颁发的《大学英语教学大纲》中1—4级的教学要求。本书每章除原书的课文和练习之外, 补充了分课词汇和课文注释, 并将原书复习测验改为三个阶段性的复习练习, 其中包括阅读技巧练习、语法练习、词汇练习及少量的汉译英练习。书后附有词汇索引。

本书可用作高等学校理工科及文科学生基础阶段的英语教材, 亦可供广大英语自学者学习使用。



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LIFE WITHOUT FUEL

[Isaac Asimov is a noted scientist and science fiction writer. He has a remarkable gift for being able to explain complex science phenomena in ways that the ordinary person can easily understand. Asimov was recently asked to imagine and describe what would happen to everyday life in 1997 if fuel really began running out. Asimov explains that this "is a picture of the worst, of waste continuing, of oil running out, of nothing in its place, of world population continuing to rise."]

1 It's 1997 and it's raining, and you'll have to walk to work again. Any given subway train breaks down one morning out of five. The buses are gone, and on a day like today, bicycles slosh and slide.

2 Lucky you have a job in demolition. It's slow and dirty work, but steady. The fading structures of a decaying city are the great mineral mines and hardware shops of the nation. Break them down and reuse the parts. Coal is too difficult to dig up and transport to give us energy in the amounts we need, nuclear fission is judged to be too dangerous, the hoped-for breakthrough toward nuclear fusion never

took place, and solar batteries are too expensive to maintain in sufficient quantity.

3 Anyone older than ten can remember automobiles. At first, the price of gasoline climbed — way up. Finally, only the well-to-do drove, and that was too clear an indication that they were filthy rich; so any automobile on a city street was overturned and burned. The cars vanished, becoming part of the metal resource.

4 There are advantages in 1997, if you want to look for them. The air is cleaner, and there seem to be fewer colds. The crime rate has dropped. With the police car too expensive, policemen are back on their beats. More important, the streets are full. Legs are king, and people walk everywhere far into the night. There is mutual protection in crowds.

5 If the weather isn't too cold, people sit out front. If it is hot, the open air is the only air conditioning they get. At least the street lights still burn. Indoors, few people can afford to keep lights burning after supper.

6 As for the winter — well, it is inconvenient to be cold, with most of what furnace fuel is allowed hoarded for the dawn. But sweaters are popular indoor wear. Showers are not an everyday luxury. Lukewarm sponge baths must do, and if the air is not always very fragrant in the human vicinity, the automobile fumes are gone.

7 It is worse in the suburbs, which were born with the auto, lived with the auto, and are dying with the auto. Suburbanites form associations that assign turns to the procurement

and distribution of food. Pushcarts creak from house to house along the posh suburban roads, and every bad snowstorm is a disaster. It isn't easy to hoard enough food to last till the roads are open. There is not much refrigeration except for the snowbanks, and then the dogs must be fought off.

8 What energy is left must be conserved for agriculture. The great car factories make trucks and farm machinery almost exclusively. The American population isn't going up much anymore, but the food supply must be kept high even though the prices and difficulty of distribution force each American to eat less. Food is needed for export to pay for some trickles of oil and for other resources.

9 The rest of the world is not as lucky as we are. They're starving out there because earth's population has continued to rise. The population on earth is 5.5 billion — up by 1.5 billion since 1977 — and, outside the United States and Europe, not more than one in five has enough to eat at any given time. There is a high infant mortality rate.

10 It's more than just starvation, though. There are those who manage to survive on barely enough to keep the body working, and that proves to be not enough for the brain. It is estimated that nearly two billion people in the world are permanently brain-damaged by undernutrition, and the number is growing.

11 At least the big armies are gone. Only the United States and the Soviet Union can maintain a few tanks, planes, and ships — which they dare not move for fear of biting into

limited fuel reserves.

12 Machines must be replaced by human muscle and beasts of burden. People are working longer hours, and — with lighting restricted, television only three hours a night, new books few and printed in small editions — what is there to do with leisure? Work, sleep, and eating are the great trinity of 1997, and only the first two are guaranteed.

13 Where will it end? It must end in a return to the days before 1800, to the days before the fossil fuels powered a vast machine industry and technology. It must end in subsistence farming and in a world population reduced by starvation, disease, and violence to less than a billion.

14 And what can we do to prevent all this now?

15 Now? In 1997? Almost nothing.

TURN TO COMPREHENSION CHECK AT END OF CHAPTER

READING TIMES:

1st reading _____ minutes

2nd reading _____ minutes

READING SPEED:

8 minutes = 120 wpm

7 minutes = 136 wpm

6 minutes = 160 wpm

5 minutes = 190 wpm

4 minutes = 240 wpm

New Words and Phrases

fiction ['fɪkʃən] <i>n.</i>	小说; 杜撰
demolition [ˌdemə'liʃən] <i>n.</i>	拆毁; 破坏
hardware ['hɑ:dweə] <i>n.</i>	金属器具
fission ['fɪʃən] <i>n.</i>	分裂; 裂变
breakthrough ['breɪk'θru:] <i>n.</i>	完成; 成功; 突破
fusion ['fju:ʒən] <i>n.</i>	熔化, 融合; 聚变
battery ['bætəri] <i>n.</i>	电池(组)
well-to-do <i>n.</i>	富裕; 富裕的人, 富裕阶级
beat [bi:t] <i>n.</i>	(接连的)敲打; 经常 巡 逻的路线
conditioning [kən'dɪʃənɪŋ] <i>n.</i>	(空气等的)调节
vicinity [vi'sɪnɪti] <i>n.</i>	附近; 附近地区; 邻近
fume [fju:m] <i>n.</i>	烟; 气; 汽
suburbanite [sə'bʌ:bənait] <i>n.</i>	郊区居民
procurement [prə'kjuəmənt] <i>n.</i>	获得
distribution [ˌdɪstri'bju:ʃən] <i>n.</i>	分发; 分配
pushcart ['puʃkɑ:t] <i>n.</i>	手推车
refrigeration [rɪ'frɪdʒə'reɪʃən] <i>n.</i>	冷却; 冷冻
snowbank ['snəubæŋk] <i>n.</i>	雪堆, 雪堤
trickle ['trɪkl] <i>n.</i>	滴; 涓滴; 细流
mortality [mə:'tælɪti] <i>n.</i>	大量死亡; 致命性
starvation [stɑ:'veɪʃən] <i>n.</i>	饥饿; 饿死
undernutrition [ˌʌndənju:'triʃən] <i>n.</i>	营养不足
leisure ['leɪʒə] <i>n.</i>	空闲, 空暇

trinity ['trɪnɪti] *n.*

三个（人或物组成的）一
组；三位一体

fossil ['fɒsl] *n. a.*

化石；从地下采掘出的

subsistence [səb'sɪstəns] *n.*

生存；生计；衣食

slosh [slɒʃ] *v.*

溅着泥水（或雪水）行进；

发出泼溅声

slide [slɑɪd] *v.*

（使）滑动

fade *v.*

雕谢，枯萎；衰弱

decay [di'keɪ] *v.*

腐朽，腐烂；衰败

reuse ['ri:'ju:z] *v.*

再使用，重新使用

hoard [hɔ:d] *v.*

节省；贮藏；积聚

assign [ə'saɪn] *v.*

分配，把…分配给

creak [kri:k] *v.*

吱吱嘎嘎地作响

conserve [kən'sə:v] *v.*

保存；保藏

starve [sta:v] *v.*

饿死；挨饿；使饿死

guarantee [ˌɡærən'ti:] *v.*

保证；担保

noted ['nəʊtɪd] *a.*

著名的

sufficient [sə'fɪʃənt] *a.*

足够的，充分的

filthy ['fɪlθi] *a.*

有钱的，富有的，非常的

mutual ['mju:tʃuəl] *a.*

相互的；彼此的；共同的

lukewarm ['lju:kwɔ:m] *a.*

微温的，微热的

fragrant ['freɪgrənt] *a.*

香的，芳香的

posh [pɒʃ] *a.*

漂亮的，第一流的

permanently ['pə:mənəntli] *ad.* 持久地

run out	用光; 缺乏
break down	发生故障; 破坏
dig up	采掘, 挖出
on one's beats	步行巡逻
fight off	不接近, 避开, 离开
for fear of	唯恐, 生怕; 以免
bite into	吞食; 腐蚀

Notes to the Text

1. **Isaac Asimov:** a Russian-American biochemist, who is probably best known as a writer of popular books in the physical and biological sciences. He has also written many science fiction books under the pseudonym Paul French.
2. **the fading structures of decaying city:** the demolished building materials in the ruins of the dying city.
3. **nuclear fission:** the splitting of the nucleus of an atom into nuclei of lighter atoms, accompanied by the release of energy.
4. **solar battery:** a device for converting solar energy into electricity.
5. At first, the price of gasoline climbed — way up: At

first, the price of gasoline increased greatly. "Way" here is used as an adverb, meaning "far."

Another example:

We are way behind with our work.

6. **and that was too clear an indication ...:** Note the special structure with "too." The word-order is: too / as / so / how adjective a / an noun. Without the indefinite article, this structure would be incorrect. Other examples:

He is too strong a man to defeat.

He enjoyed too long a stay in a foreign country.

You are too much a good student to fail.

There is too long an interval between examinations.

7. **filthy rich:** extremely rich.

"Filthy" is American slang, meaning having much money, wealthy, with overtones implying contempt or scorn.

8. **sit out front:** sit outside just in front of their houses.

9. **with most of what furnace fuel is allowed hoarded for the dawn:** What limited furnace fuel people have saved is to be used for the time of the day when light first appears.

10. **and if the air is not always very fragrant in the human vicinity, the automobile fumes are gone:** In spite of the fear that the air is not always pleasant to smell in the human surroundings, at least we no longer have automobile fumes. Here, the word "if" means "although", "even if", introducing an adverbial clause of concession. Another example:

It was a nice, if humid day.

Exercises

A. Analysis of Ideas and Relationships: Circle the letter next to the best answer.

1. "Life without Fuel" is:
 - a. a scientific study of life in 1997.
 - b. an imaginary account of life in 1997.
 - c. a history of life in 1997.
2. According to paragraph 2, a good kind of job to have is in:
 - a. demolition.
 - b. a gasoline station.
 - c. construction.

Why? Please explain your answer.
3. Which statement is NOT true according to this article?
 - a. Energy will be expensive and in short supply.
 - b. There will be more cars than ever in 1997.
 - c. The air will be cleaner in 1997.
4. Paragraph 4 discusses:
 - a. the advantages of life in 1997.
 - b. the disadvantages of life in 1997.
 - c. the advantages of life today.
5. Paragraph 5 shows that, in 1997, people will:
 - a. use less electricity than they do today.
 - b. use more electricity than they do today.

- c. not use any electricity.
- 6. According to paragraph 7, in 1997, life in the suburbs will be:
 - a. much easier than life in the cities.
 - b. more difficult than life in the cities.
 - c. about the same as life in the cities.

Why? Please explain your answer.

- 7. Why will America need to export food in 1997?
 - a. Because they will have too much food for their own use.
 - b. Because the farmers will want to make a lot of money.
 - c. Because they will need money to buy oil.
- 8. How would you compare the rest of the world with America in 1997?
 - a. America will be luckier than the rest of the world.
 - b. The rest of the world will be luckier than America.
 - c. Everyone will be well off.

- 9. The tone of this article is:

- a. pessimistic.
- b. optimistic.
- c. cheerful.

Please explain your answer.

- 10. The problems Isaac Asimov describes in this article are caused by:
 - a. a lack of fuel.
 - b. the wrong kind of fuel.
 - c. too much fuel.

Please explain your answer.